

What Is Claimed is:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.15 to 3.5 parts by weight PEG to 1 part lactulose.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.5 to 3 parts by weight PEG to 1 part by weight lactulose.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the composition is administered in single dosages each comprising about 5 to 35 gm of dry PEG dissolved in the aqueous carrier.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein each single dosage further comprises about 10 to 30 gm of dry lactulose dissolved in the aqueous carrier.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein each dosage comprises about 10 to 20 gm PEG and 10 to 20 gm lactulose.

10. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of ~~a patient with or at risk of HE~~ characterized by hyperammonemia comprising PEG and lactulose in an amount of from about 0.5 to 3 parts by weight PEG to one part by weight lactulose.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A single dosage of the composition of claim 10 comprising about 5 to 35 gm of PEG.

13. (Currently Amended) The single dosage composition of claim 12, ~~further~~ comprising about 10 to 30 gm of lactulose.

14. (Previously Presented) The single dosage composition of claim 13, comprising about 10 to 20 gm PEG and 10 to 20 gm lactulose.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the PEG is solid at room temperature.

17. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 10, wherein the PEG is solid at room temperature.

18. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 13, wherein the PEG is solid at room temperature.

19. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 10, wherein the lactulose and PEG are each a dry powder.

20. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 13, wherein the lactulose and PEG are each a dry powder.

21. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 14, wherein the lactulose and PEG are each a dry powder.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 33, wherein the composition is ~~substantially~~ free of serum electrolytes.

24. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 10, wherein the composition is ~~substantially~~ free of serum electrolytes.

25. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 13, wherein the composition is ~~substantially~~ free of serum electrolytes.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~33~~ 34, wherein the amount of the composition administered is also sufficient to alleviate constipation in the patient.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a patient with or at risk of ~~HE characterized by~~ hyperammonemia, comprising administering to the patient a pharmaceutical composition comprising PEG polyethylene glycol (PEG) and lactulose, in an amount and frequency sufficient to reduce patient plasma

ammonia to a clinically-acceptable level[[,]] or to maintain this level, or both.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the composition is a dry composition formulated as a liquid drink by admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable aqueous carrier and is orally administered to the patient.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 7, wherein the composition is administered on a continuing basis in at least one single dosage per day.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 8, wherein the composition is administered on a continuing basis in at least one single dosage per day.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the composition is administered on a continuing basis in at least a single dose per day.

39. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the composition is administered on a continuing basis of once or twice a day.

40. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the composition is administered on a continuing basis of once or twice a day.

41. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the composition is administered on a continuing basis of once or twice a day.

42. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the composition is administered in an amount insufficient to induce bowel cleansing.

43. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the composition is administered in an amount insufficient to induce bowel cleansing.

44. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the patient has, or is at risk of, the characterized by hyperammonemia.

45. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the patient has, or is at risk of, the characterized by hyperammonemia.

46. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the patient has, or is at risk of, the characterized by hyperammonemia.

47. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the patient has, or is at risk of, the characterized by hyperammonemia.

48. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the patient has, or is at risk of, the characterized by hyperammonemia.

49. (New) The composition of claim 10, wherein the patient has, or is at risk of, HE characterized by hyperammonemia.

50. (New) The composition of claim 12, wherein the patient has, or is at risk of, HE characterized by hyperammonemia.

51. (New) The composition of claim 13, wherein the patient has, or is at risk of, HE characterized by hyperammonemia.

52. (New) The composition of claim 14, wherein the patient has, or is at risk of, HE characterized by hyperammonemia.